

are not permitted to silently and anonymously interfere with the science behind ESA decisions.

However, this legislation shedding light on the Department of the Interior decisionmaking go hand in hand with additional whistleblower protections for government employees, such as those contained in H.R. 985, the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2007 that overwhelmingly passed the House in March of this year by a vote of 331–94. As we look to expand the transparency of ESA decisions, we must also ensure that those employees at the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of the Interior who are acting in the best interests of the Nation are not subject to reprisal.

IMPROVING FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE TO DEFEND THE NATION AND THE CONSTITUTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, in the interest of national security, I reluctantly voted in favor of H.R. 3356, the Improving Foreign Intelligence Surveillance to Defend the Nation and the Constitution Act of 2007. Although I ultimately supported this bill, I am concerned that this bill provided expanded authority to the Attorney General, who I believe has previously violated U.S. law regarding the FISA courts and has breached the trust of the American people. If this were a permanent change to law, I would have voted against it because I believe provisions of this bill could be abused and allow the Attorney General to authorize wiretaps on American citizens without a warrant. Since it expires in 120 days, I am willing to support it as a stop-gap measure. Should we hear any evidence that the Attorney General or any other administration official has blatantly abused provisions of H.R. 3356, I will call for and support aggressive investigations into their actions.

IMPROVING FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE TO DEFEND THE NATION AND THE CONSTITUTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, one lesson we Americans learn as children is that we should guard our liberty and our security with equal vigor.

The FISA bill before us, while reinstating the power to direct surveillance toward foreigners, protects Americans in two key ways:

1. An independent judge, and not the attorney general or anyone else in the executive branch, will rule on surveillance applications.
2. Nothing in this bill immunizes any potential illegal surveillance.

Americans expect accountability, that their private lives remain private, and that their own

government is one they need not fear, especially when we face difficult times. This bill strikes the appropriate balance between liberty and security.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ROBERT LEE MOTT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the City of Chickasaw and indeed the entire State of Alabama lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Robert L. Mott was a successful businessman and restaurateur whose kindness and willingness to help others had a strong impact on the lives of so many throughout south Alabama.

Known to his community as “Papa Bear,” Robert started his own restaurant, Papa Bear’s Seafood, 12 years ago. He also owned Mott-White’s Fixtures, a restaurant equipment business in downtown Mobile. Robert’s colleagues remember him as a fair businessman who was a pleasure to conduct business with.

Prior to his career in the restaurant business, Robert worked in the engineering division of the Alabama State Highway Department, in addition to serving in the Army National Guard. He was active in his community, often helping to set up local church facilities.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community member and friend to many throughout south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by those who knew him. Robert Lee Mott is survived by his wife of 46 years, Dorothy Mott; 3 daughters, Robbin Stevens of Gulfcrest, Sandra Ivy of Chickasaw, and Kimberly Tait of Fort Morgan; his mother, Christine Mott of Tibbie; 2 brothers, Roger Mott of Mobile and Coyette Mott of Sarasota, Florida; and 7 grandchildren. May his family know that they are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR MARVIN H. CARUTHERS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Professor Marvin H. Caruthers on his recent selection as a recipient of the National Medal of Science. With this award Professor Caruthers officially joins the ranks of the finest minds to contribute to American science since Congress established the award in 1959.

Having held a faculty post at the University of Colorado at Boulder for the past 34 years, Professor Caruthers conducts the sort of cutting-edge research that consistently keeps CU-Boulder on the map for technological advancement and academic progress. The University deserves credit for creating an atmosphere that allows minds like Professor Caruthers’ to flourish, and I can say confidently that the 2nd District, the State of Colorado, and the country at large all benefit enormously from that investment.

Professor Caruthers is the cofounder of both Amgen, the world’s largest biotechnology company, and Applied Biosystems, a company that has commercialized Professor Caruthers’ work on DNA synthesizing. While his research is extraordinary in its own right, making his findings commercially available is how this important work manifests as life-saving technology, advanced understanding of human biology, and high-tech jobs for American workers. Professor Caruthers’ work gives us a textbook example of how advanced research becomes a guiding light for human advancement.

I hope my colleagues will join me in not only recognizing the past accomplishments of Professor Marvin Caruthers that have warranted his acceptance of the National Medal of Science, but also in wishing him all the best in his future pursuits.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 815 and rollcall No. 816, I did not vote as a protest of the actions of the majority related to rollcall No. 814. Had I voted, I would have voted nay on rollcall No. 815 and nay on rollcall No. 816.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN NOXAKIS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the distinguished life of John Noxakis, who entered God’s eternal paradise far too soon for those of us he leaves behind in this ephemeral veil of tears.

A life-long Detroit proud of his ethnic heritage, John embodied the Greek’s love of food and music. He was a gifted culinary artist, whose dishes delighted and sated diners throughout our community; and, in his purest gift, he was an unparalleled percussionist. It was through John’s drumming my brother and I met him. We three formed the nucleus of the little acclaimed and over amplified band, “The Flying Squirrels”; and, cramped together on the “cover band” roller coaster, off and on we jammed our way through nearly twenty years of small gigs and smaller paychecks. Through it all, John was the one person in the band whose gentility and sanity kept an often tempestuous combination of musical prima donnas kicking out the jams, instead of killing each other. He was true to this task until his tragic and unexpected death; and it has taken some time—is still taking time, may forever take time—for me to realize I will never see him ascend his set, hear his beat, and know my brother from another mother is right in time with every thought seeping through my strings.

Yes, in a world where too many crave at all costs to be “great,” John cared enough to be good. He was a loving brother to Michael and Katina; a devoted uncle to Christine, Sophia

and Maria; and a true friend to all he encountered. John, may you forever rest in God's infinite love until, one day, the rest of us Flying Squirrels sneak our way into Heaven's basement to disturb your peace for a moment and "Kick out the Jams."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning John Noxakis' passing; extend our deepest sorrow to all he loved and all who loved him; and commemorate his lifetime of bringing joy to his fellow human beings.

TAX AND SPEND

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, it has only taken seven months, but this new Democrat majority has brought back Washington's favorite pastime—tax and spend.

In their short time in the majority, Democrats have all but openly pledged to raise taxes on the American people by an incredible \$392 billion. That's on top of \$23 billion in new domestic spending. This is real money. It comes from the wallets of American families. Unfortunately, Democrats believe they know better how to spend the hard-earned money of America's workers than the workers themselves.

Republicans are working to restore fiscal sanity to this Congress. We have staunchly opposed the out-of-control spending, and brought some much needed sunshine to earmarks. When taxpayer dollars are being spent, we owe it to each and every American to create transparency and accountability. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring our duty to the American people to remain good stewards of their hard-earned money.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MRS. EVELEEN G. LATHAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madm Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama lost a dear friend and educator, and I rise today to honor her and pay tribute to her memory. Eveleen G. Lathan was a devoted teacher and dedicated school administrator whose diligence and guidance greatly impacted the lives of countless students in the Mobile area.

In 1960, Mrs. Lathan began her career in the Mobile County public school system, a dedicated legacy of service that would span over thirty-five years. Mrs. Lathan was a devoted elementary school teacher for over nine years before being named principal at Dauphin Island Elementary. Later, she also served as the head administrator at E.R. Dickson Elementary.

Perhaps her greatest commitment to the education of the children of Mobile, though, is evident in her twenty-five-year service as the

principal at Nan Gray Davis Elementary School. While principal there, she improved the standard of education and instruction tremendously, as well as setting an excellent example for administrators and teachers alike.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated educator and friend to many throughout south Alabama. She will be deeply missed by those who knew her. Mrs. Lathan, whose husband Delvin Lathan preceded her in death, is survived by her three sons, Jerry Lathan, Charles T. Lathan, and Joseph M. Lathan; four grandchildren, Brittany Lathan, Adam Lathan, Charles D. Lathan, and Zachary Lathan; and nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

May her family know that they are in the thoughts and prayers of all who loved and appreciated Mrs. Lathan and her many contributions to our community.

H.R. 3221, THE NEW DIRECTION FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT AND H.R. 2776, THE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this energy package because the energy policies we adopt over the next 5 years will determine the future of life on our planet.

For too long, our energy policies have moved us in the wrong direction. Although we briefly made some progress in the mid-1980s because of increases in fuel economy standards, overall oil consumption has increased by nearly 4 million barrels per day since the mid-1970s. In that time, oil imports have also increased from approximately 40 percent to 60 percent. That dependence is putting our economic leadership and national security in peril according to top business leaders and national security experts.

The threat of global climate change has also grown and threatens to fundamentally change the global landscape. The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has given us a clear picture of the role that human activities, particularly our energy consumption, play in global warming, and it has projected severe impacts for our planet and our way of life.

Dr. James Hansen, NASA's renowned climate expert, now warns that we have less than a decade to start making significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions if we're going to avert the most severe impacts of global climate change.

Top businesses, including the Big Three U.S. automakers, have also agreed that we must reduce greenhouse emissions in the U.S. by 60 percent to 80 percent by 2050.

Just as important, there are 2 billion people living in the developing world, including China and India, who do not have access to reliable sources of energy. They are striving to secure reliable energy and to achieve the prosperity we enjoy.

These factors represent both a challenge and an opportunity for our country and the world.

Silicon Valley, which is in my Congressional district, has reinvented itself time and again to anticipate the next economic challenge and opportunity. Today, the Valley is focused on energy, investing billions in new technologies and start-ups.

It's time for Congress to recognize and respond to these facts by taking a new approach on energy policy, and that is what this bill does.

Instead of addressing issues of supply and demand and promoting dinosaur-age technology, we are fixed on achieving two goals: becoming energy independent and addressing the threat of global warming.

This legislation is not the end of our efforts; it is the first step in meeting these goals. It is signal legislation.

The bill cuts \$16 billion in incentives for the oil and gas industry and invests it in renewable energy and efficiency. This includes eliminating the so-called Hummer tax loophole which gives a \$25,000 tax deduction for the purchase of SUVs weighing more than 6,000 pounds. I introduced the first legislation in the House to close this loophole in 2003. By taking this step alone, we will save nearly \$800 million that will be invested in consumer tax incentives to promote solar energy and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

The bill also raises 43 efficiency standards for appliances and buildings. Once fully implemented, the bill will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 10 billion tons. That is more than the emissions of all the cars on the road today. Included in this effort is a provision I proposed to improve the efficiency of computer data centers—the facilities that are the backbone of our information economy.

I believe we can and should do more.

First, we should do as California and many other States have done: Adopt a national renewable electricity standard (RES) and I will vote for the RES amendment that will require 15 percent of our electricity to come from renewable resources.

Second, we need to address the fuel economy of our automobile fleet. Although this is not part of our debate today, I look forward to addressing it as we take up additional energy legislation in the fall.

Madam Speaker, we have a long way to go toward fully addressing global warming and energy independence. This energy package represents an important first step and I urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING RAY ADKINS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ray Adkins, a remarkable man with a long history of service to his country. Mr. Adkins, a resident of Harned, Kentucky, has spent the majority of his life serving his country and helping his fellow Veterans.

A Vietnam veteran, Ray Adkins had a distinguished 20-year military career. While serving, Ray was always willing to lend a hand to his fellow soldiers. He and his wife Rosemarie always let new military families stay in their home and assisted them until they got back on their feet.